

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 16, 2004. Claims 1-11 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-11 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-11 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buchner et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,535,854).

Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 1 and 7) are patentable over Buchner.

Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a voice recognition system for controlling one or more electronic devices and toward a voice recognition method employed in a voice recognition system for controlling one or more electronic devices. The claims recite that an electronic device to be controlled by the system has an associated voice recognition table, and that the voice recognition table is registered upon connection of the device to the system. The claims further recite that "said unregistered electronic device initiates registration of said voice recognition table by requesting permission to transfer said voice recognition table to [a] control [means]." Supporting disclosure for Applicants' registration scheme can be found in the specification at, for example, page 13, line 20 – page 14, line 3.

Buchner does not disclose a voice recognition table registration scheme like that recited by Applicants. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 7 are patentable over Buchner on at least this basis.

Furthermore, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, dependent claims 2-6 and 8-11 are believed to be patentable over Buchner for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims.

Applicants submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.


If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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